

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

Bless No, O God, the Journey

ELW 326

Greeting

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

☒ Amen

☒ Behold, now is the acceptable time;

☒ **now is the day of salvation.**

☒ The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin through the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

☒ **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Refrain

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Last time

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev - 'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the
2 That we may live out your im -
3 For peace in our hearts, for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you



health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;
passioned re - sponse to the hun - gry and the poor;
peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly;
cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word;



for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
that we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
for life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
that you nour - ish our souls . . . with your bo - dy and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray... Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin.
- Ⓑ **Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

📖 A reading from **Genesis**:

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-10



Refrain



Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithful-ness.

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

☐ A reading from **1 Peter**:

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Let Your Steadfast Love

Page 181 ELW

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:9-15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign..

📖 The Holy Gospel, according to **Mark**.

👏 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

👏 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection,

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Hymn of the Day

When We Are Tested

ACS 922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Apostles' Creed

See Insert

Nicene Creed

P Let us proclaim our faith together:

C **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Apostles' Creed

☐ Let us proclaim our faith together:

☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **We lift our hearts to you.** The assembly prays, **Reveal your love, O Lord.***

☐ Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

☐ God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David; our synod companion churches Trinity Lutheran Church, Manton; Nashville United Methodist Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken* We lift our hearts to you.

☑ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

☐ God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. We lift our hearts to you.

☑ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

A God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke)*. We lift our hearts to you.

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

A God our help, you feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. especially *Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Lisa Golnek, Lorraine Handsbarger, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Virginia Henion, Andy Lamb, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Rick Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, the Family of Marian Sorby, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Al Throop, Russ Trongo, and Brenda Watson*. We lift our hearts to you.

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

A God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling. We lift our hearts to you.

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

A God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. We lift our hearts to you.

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

G **Amen.**

Offering Song

Seed That in Earth Is Dying

ELW 330

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Prayer

- A** Let us pray....Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives,
- G** **that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Sharing the Peace of God

- P** The peace of Christ be with you always.
- G** **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving

- P** The Lord be with you.
- G** **And also with you.**

- P** Lift up your hearts.
- G** **We lift them to the Lord.**

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- G** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Table Prayer

- P** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

- G** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- Ⓟ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first taught:
- ☒ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

- Ⓟ Come to Jesus, our host, and our meal.
- ☒ **Thanks be to God.**

Communion

*I Want Jesus to Walk With Me
Eat This Bread*

**ELW 325
ELW 472**

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
- ☒ **Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes – Prayer (10:45 only)

A Prayer for Pastor Ken

Today we join together to pray for the upcoming three months. We pray for Pastor Ken, we pray for Grace Lutheran Church, and we pray for ourselves, that all will be humble under God's mighty hand, so that He may lift us up in His due time. We cast all our anxieties on God because he cares for us.

We know that the Lord our God is living among us, a mighty Savior. He takes delight in us with gladness. With His love, He will calm our fears and rejoice over us with joyful songs.

As people of God who called and received Pastor Ken as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all with the gospel of hope and salvation, we regard him as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God. We pray for him, have promised to help and honor him for his work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ.

We pray that during his absence, Pastor Ken will seek and feel God's peace, healing, and

transformation. We pray that he will feel our support and prayers that will follow him during this time, and that he will return to us, refreshed, renewed, and spiritually fortified. We pray that God will sustain our congregation with strength, confidence, and humility, that we may continue our mission to teach the way of Jesus and spread community, justice, and love. We believe in God's promise to guide us along unfamiliar paths, to turn darkness to light before us, and to make rough places smooth, and we pray He will manifest these things for both Pastor Ken and our congregation during this leave of absence.

We finish our prayer with a reading from Hebrews Chapter 12:

So, since we stand surrounded by all those who have gone before, an enormous cloud of witnesses, let us drop every extra weight, every sin that clings to us and slackens our pace, and let us run with endurance the long race set before us.

We may feel alone, but we aren't. We are surrounded by an army of witnesses. They have run the race of faith and finished well. It is now our turn.

Now stay focused on Jesus, who designed and perfected our faith.

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

☞ God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, ✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

☞ **Amen**

Sending Song

Jesus, Still Lead On

ELW 624

Dismissal

☞ Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – David Neeb
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Vicky Argo
Lector – Paul Kuhlman
Cantor – Mary Kuhlman
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Freedlunds

Community Wednesday Service February 21, 2024, at **12 noon** will be held at First Presbyterian Church. Please join our ecumenical partners in providing unity in the body of Christ by attending. The theme of the worship service is **Paradise**. Pastor Bryce Feighner will be doing the presentation. Information about the other community Lenten services is located on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

Grace Youth are Invited to commUNITY Youth Bash on March 22, 5-11pm, at the Hastings CERC 6th-12th grades invited. Tons of activities: Christian speaker, basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, 9Square, Nerf Wars, swim-in (swimming with a movie), pizza, and more! Pastor Emma Miller of the Hastings Free Methodist Church will be providing more details in the near future.

Turkeyville Dinner Theater *Oklahoma* is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th (or alternate date of Friday, May 17th). Tickets are \$65 each and the deadline for purchasing tickets is March 17th. Please check the bulletin board for sign up information.

How Beloved You Are!

Jesus' journey to the cross and resurrection begins with his baptism. As the church journeys with Jesus through Lent and toward Easter, we each remember our own baptism, and our life in Christ is renewed.

At the Jordan River, God stops at nothing to declare Jesus beloved. Not even the sky can cloud the message; God tears open the heavens and proclaims it loud and clear. Now each time we dip our hands into the font or trace the sign of the cross over our bodies, we remember this promise anew: "You are a beloved child of God." Nothing can separate you from God's love.

Immediately after baptism, Jesus must contend with Satan and wild beasts in the wilderness. Then, before Jesus' ministry begins, John is arrested. The Gospel of Mark doesn't give the fact more than a passing mention at this point in the story, but John's arrest and subsequent death make for a trauma that comes at a crucial moment in Jesus' life. How was Jesus able to begin his ministry after all he had been through? And how are we, who have experienced temptation, torment, or trauma, to journey on?

The journey is not easy for Jesus, and neither will it be for us. But it's amazing what is possible when you know just how beloved you are. How long must the voice of God have echoed in Jesus' mind after that baptism day! Perhaps the angels whispered in his ear as they waited on him: "You are beloved. With you God is well pleased." Every Sunday, we return to the waters because we can never have too many reminders. When times get tough, we can trust in the promises of God made to us in baptism. This is a flood that saves us. These waters bring new life out of death. God's love will stop at nothing. Today, remember just how beloved you are!

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Adult Forum please join us **next week** at 9:30 with Joe Longcor leading the study.

Social Activities Invites You The 2024 Hastings High School Play is "Matilda". Grace plans to attend on Saturday, March 9th at 2:00PM. This year we ask that you purchase tickets on your own from the high school. We plan to go to dinner after the play. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you are interested in going to dinner so reservations can be made. Please indicate if you need a ride.

Book Study entitled Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist. The next study session is **February 18, today, at 9:30.**

Women of Faith meet Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome. A reminder that if Hastings Schools are closed due to inclement weather we will not meet. Thank you.

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the ONE who reveals God's presence in our lives. It is by God's grace that we are made a child of God, who is blessed by God's rich grace, mercy, and peace.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 45
 Weekly Giving: \$5,458.00
 Noisy Offering: \$36.24

Views: 348
 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

Grace Projects Goal	\$25,252.00
Received To Date	- \$ 505.00
Total Needed	\$24,747.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$5.00

The nursery is available weekly during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.



Hand2Hand Program provides food over the weekend to students at Hastings schools. We are collecting donations of Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups, Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready-to-eat mac and cheese. For February, they are in additional need of microwave popcorn, individual apple sauce cups, and Knorr Alfredo Pasta.

The deadline for February is the 25th. Thank you for your continued support of this valuable program.

Look for the Lenten Devotional which is available in the Gathering Area. This year the title is *Lifted Up in Love* by Henri J.M. Nouwen.

Meals for Lent Each Lenten meal begins at 6:15 followed by worship at 7:15 pm. Join us on Wednesdays in February on the 21st, 28th, and in March on the 6th, 13th, and 20th. This Wednesday, February 21, is hosted by Vickey Argo and Joe Longcor. The evening's meal will be chili. Proceeds go to Barry County Cares.

The Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity are a local group of people dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion in our community. This month they are hosting a series of events at the Hastings Library called *Lift Every Voice*. They continue this series on **Monday, February 19 at 6:00 p.m.** The topic will be Puerto Rican & Hispanic Life Stories.